DEPUTIES ACCUSED IN CAMPUS DEATHS

Witness Says 2 Southern U. Students Fell Near Him

By PAUL DELANEY
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BATON ROUGE, Nov. 28—A student leader at Southern University said today that two students killed during a campus demonstration Nov. 16 had been shot by deputy sheriff officers.

Further, Sabatu Taibika, a member of Students United, which had been leading weeks of student protests, told a panel of blacks investigating the incident that the two students fell within three feet of him as he bent over to pick up a tar-gas canister.

He told the final session of the panel that he later concluded the shots might have been meant for him. Mr. Taibika, along with the slain students, Denver Smith and Leonard D. Brown, were running away from advancing police colums.

"A tear-gas grenade fell at the side of me and when I bent down to pick it up the two brothers fell at my feet just like that," said Mr. Tiabika, snapping his finger.

"If I had not bent down I would have been in the scope of fire. The shots came from the line of deputy sheriffs."

Meanwhile, it was disclosed for the first time that two other students had been injured by shotgun pellets. Hypolite Landry, East Baton Rouge Parish (county) coroner, told a secret investigation commissioned by the State Attorney General, William Guste, that the two students had been treated at a hospital and released.

The black panel concluded its two days of public hearings this afternoon. The group said it would release its findings here in two weeks. The group got together because the blacks distrusted investigations by state officials.

The Attorney General's commission of six whites and six blacks, including two students, will continue its closed sessions.

While the issue was still being investigated, it appeared that blacks had made up their minds that the white police were to blame for the deaths, and whites believed, as Gov. Edwin Edwards testified yesterday before the all-black committee, that the students brought it on themselves as a result of weeks of unrest and finally taking over the administration building.

However, the students maintained they did not take over the building. They also said during the two-day hearing that they had heard no orders to disperse and that the police opened fire without warning or provocation.

The school's president, Dr. G. Leon Netterville, ordered the main campus here closed until Jan. 3 to allow time for tempers to cool. But students at the New Orleans branch resumed their boycott of classes yesterday, an ominous sign for the main campus unless some agreement is reached prior to January. One spokesman said there might be more negotiations after the investigations are completed.

The future of Southern University is also under debate. Even before the shooting incident, efforts were under way to merge the state's black colleges with nearby white school The current troubles have given a new impetus to that movement.

Southern has been on the censure list of the American Association of University Professors for the last four years because of "improper dismissals" of faculty members.

An association official warned last week that the organization would take issue with a proposed settlement of the school's crisis that gave students an equal voice in hiring, promoting and dismissing faculty members. The official, however, agreed that students needed more weight in academi decision making.

One Baton Rouge black resident attending the hearings said the series of incidents was "full of ironies that would be funny if not so tragic." One example, he said, "was the irony of Denver Smith, who only went to the administration building to retrieve his little sister, who was participating in the demonstrations. He disagreed with the student demonstrators, but he was there at the wrong time."